CANADA'S

style at home

Get Decorating!

50 IDEAS TO MAKE YOUR HOME *shine bright!*

take our HOLIDAY STYLE QUIZ

Get Baking!
1 EASY DOUGH
3 FESTIVE BREADS

Get Shopping!
OUR EARLY BIRD
GIFT GUIDE

Get Inspired!
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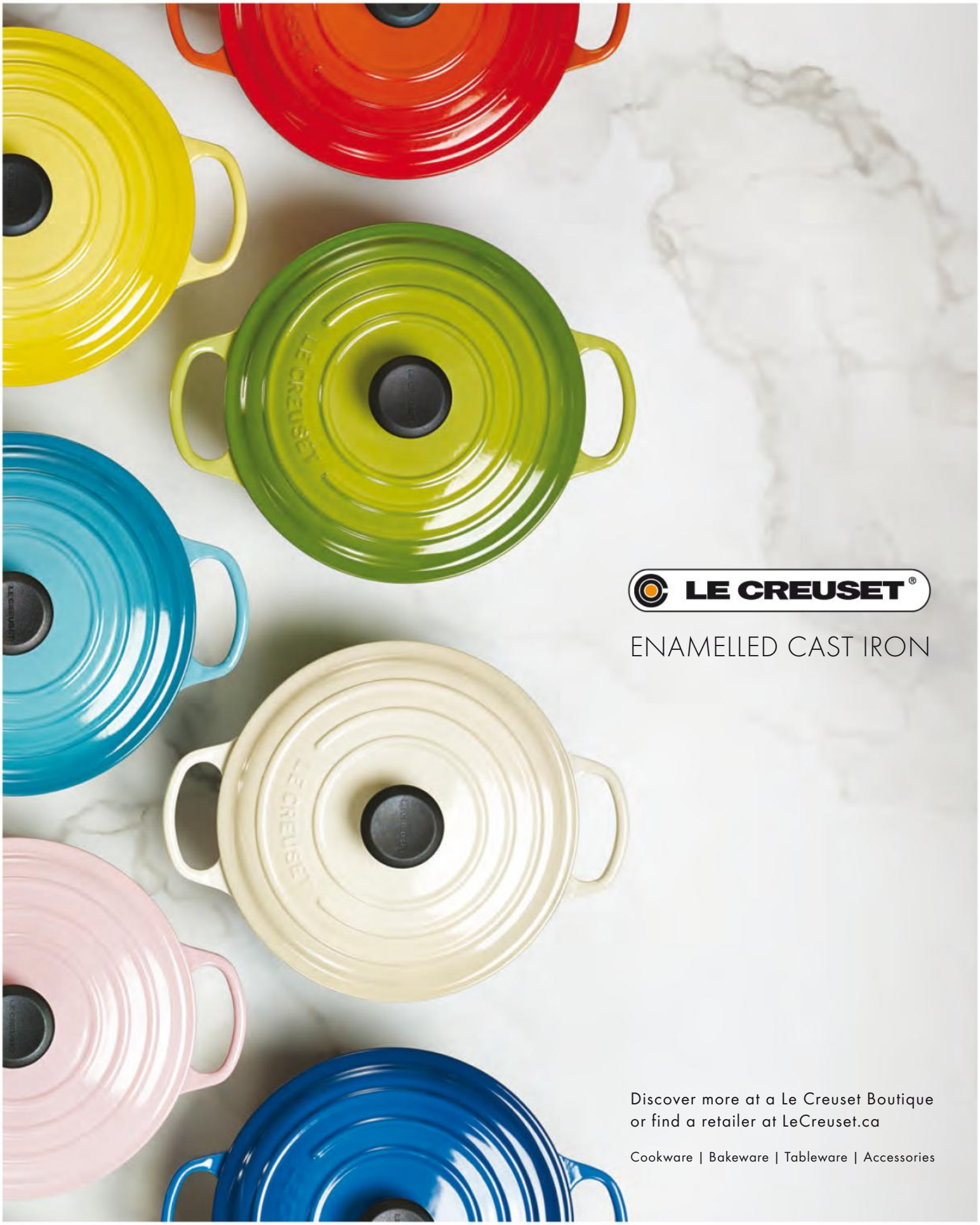
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Bring cheer to your home this holiday season with shimmery table accents.

HOMES

76 A COLLECTOR'S CHRISTMAS
History and tradition are a big part of how this homeowner decorates for the season

82 HELLO, LOVELY HOLIDAY
Here are 12 ways lifestyle blogger Monika Hibbs gives her home a fresh look for Christmas

90 MAGIC MOMENTS
A Swedish budding interior designer relies on a few festive touches to create an inspiring and dreamy holiday space

COLUMNS

19 STYLE NEWS
The best home decor products, the hottest trends and the most inspiring ideas

24 DESSERT OF THE MONTH
Decadently delicious thumbprint cookies

28 HIGH OR LOW
This issue, we deconstruct an ultra-chic boho dining room to achieve the look on budgets both high and low

Deck your dining table or mantel with playful DIY paper ornaments.

DECORATING

32 FALL INTO HOLIDAY
A designer's light decorating hand spells an easy transition from season to season

42 HOLIDAY QUIZ
Answer these questions to unwrap your signature festive style

50 PAPER WHITES
Learn how to use everyday materials to create playful winter decorations

58 GIFT GUIDE
A roundup of more than 25 stylish gifts to make holiday shopping a breeze

66 A NORDIC NOEL
We look to a Toronto abode for eight Swedish seasonal decor ideas worth stealing

FOOD

96 HOLIDAY BREADS
Sweet, savoury or in between, these bread creations may just be the best gifts you give your family this year

REGULARS

FROM OUR EDITOR 12
GET SOCIAL 16
WORKBOOK 105
SPOTLIGHT 106

TABLET EDITION
Get Style at Home for your iPad, with additional how-to video content, bonus image galleries and more. Download it on the App Store today.

ON THE COVER
An elegant neutral living space features a whimsical Christmas decorating scheme of soft pink and metallic accents **76**

PHOTOGRAPHY
Tracey Ayton

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yule TIDES

You may be surprised to learn that, here at Style at Home magazine, Christmas starts in the middle of July. For all of us in the industry, this is par for the course – because of our long-lead print deadlines, our November issues go to press at the beginning of each September, so we can get them to you before the holidays. But rest assured that the magic of Christmas does not escape us.

If you drop by our offices in early summer, it is a veritable Santa's workshop: The desks in the design department are covered with ribbons, gift wrap and craft supplies that pro DIYer Ann Marie Favot, our home & style director, uses to create everything from beautiful greeting cards to bespoke wreaths. Meanwhile, associate design editor Morgan Lindsay edits through the hundreds of products she's collected to devise the ultimate gift list for our readers (see "25+ Holiday Gifts We Love," page 58). In editorial, the dulcet sounds of festive songs spill out from executive editor Suzanne Moutis's desk area while she edits and writes holiday stories alongside her team.

But not everything to do with the November and December issues happens in the summertime. The beautiful homes you see on the pages of this issue were photographed in winter (there's something special about a house decorated during the holidays that you just can't emulate in summer), so the design team and I spend the fall months engrossed in plans for festive shoots. Then, come spring, Morgan is back at it, scouring our favourite retailers for gift guide-worthy products to begin the cycle once more in July.

So while conjuring the holiday spirit at the height of summer may seem challenging, it's easy in a place that's touched by Christmas all year long.

Erin

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PHOTOGRAPHY, BROGAN MCNAB FOR THE SEPTEMBER, THESEPTEMBER.COM; JUMPER, SÉZANE, SEZANE.COM; NECKLACE, TIFFANY & CO., TIFFANY.CA

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QUIET **MOMENTS**

Reading Style at Home is part of my happy time, when my two little kids are napping or asleep for the night. I love dreaming up ideas for new home projects and using your articles as inspiration. I also appreciate that the products featured can be found here in Canada. Thank you!

AMANDA, LONDON, ON

GREAT **ESCAPE**

I wanted to send a photo of me standing outside a café in Ravello, Italy. I am holding a page from Style at Home's July 2016 issue (Style Destination, page 28), in which this beautiful hilltop destination was featured. After I read the article and shared it with my husband, our summer vacation was planned. Not only do I love your magazine for decorating inspiration, but you should know it inspired us to go travelling as well. *Grazie*, Style at Home!

NATALIE, VIA EMAIL

LAVISH **LUNCH**

Wine and cheese for lunch on a random Wednesday? Heck to the yes!

@KIRSTENNEIL

SAVVY **PACKER**

Prepping for our road trip tomorrow! Starting with the essentials: comfy pants, magazines and cameras.

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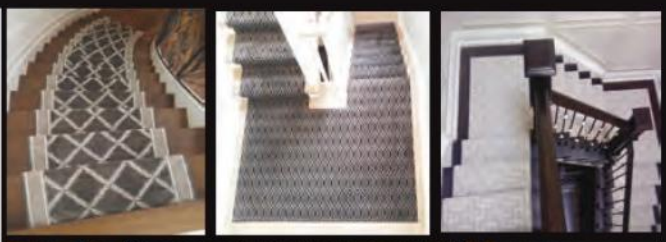

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style news

PRODUCER MORGAN LINDSAY | **TEXT** MARY LEVITSKI

florally festive

Using the stunning Designers Guild toss cushion fabric as her jumping-off point, former Style at Home design editor Jessica Waks created an unconventionally colourful floral-inspired Christmas scheme. Now this is our idea of merry and bright!

PAINT PALETTE OF THE MONTH

IDYLLIC ISLE PPG1235-4, PPG Paints, ppgvoiceofcolor.com.

FLAIR 30RR 15/375, Dulux Paints, dulux.ca.

RED RED ROSE 90RR 18/450, CIL Paint, cil.ca.

PITCH BLACK 256, Farrow & Ball, farrow-ball.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY, DONNA GRIFFITH; PRODUCER, JESSICA WAKS

SAFE SEAT

With a solid wooden base and a smart grey tufted seat, this bench is quite traditional in style, but **ITS SLIM CONTEMPORARY SILHOUETTE MAKES IT A GUARANTEED FIT IN JUST ABOUT ANY SPACE.** We love it in this entryway paired with other chic pieces from GlucksteinHome's latest lineup.

GlucksteinHome ash and cotton blend Oslo **BENCH,** $999, Hudson's Bay, thebay.com.

REFRESHMENT REST

LOW ON PREP AND HIGH ON FUN, COCKTAIL PARTIES ARE PERFECT FOR THE ENTERTAINER'S BUSY SEASON. TO MAKE SURE YOURS GOES OFF WITHOUT A HITCH, PROVIDE PLENTY OF STYLISH SPOTS FOR GUESTS TO REST DRINKS AND SNACKS, SUCH AS THIS MOORISH BRASS TRAY-TOP SIDE TABLE.

S&C Home Collection brass tray-top **SIDE TABLE,** $350, Canfloyd, canfloyd.com.

Q&A WITH MARTHA STEWART

We caught up with Martha Stewart to chat about her newest bedding collection and her must-haves for an inviting bedroom.

1. DESCRIBE THE COLLECTION IN THREE WORDS:

Pretty, well-made and affordable.

2. WHAT'S YOUR APPROACH WHEN DESIGNING BEDDING?

There are so many different tastes to accommodate, so I like variety. But I always create something I would actually put on one of my own beds.

3. WHAT MAKES A MAGAZINE-WORTHY BEDROOM?

Lighting – both natural and artificial – is very important, as is a warm, welcoming atmosphere; bedrooms should have a certain amount of charm.

PHOTOGRAPHY, FADIL BERISHA (MARTHA)

Martha Stewart Whim queen cotton Dot Com **COMFORTER SET,** $180 per 5-piece set, and Snail Mail **SHEET SET,** $100 per 4-piece set, Hudson's Bay, thebay.com. (Blue pillowcases not included.)

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"Extreme Pairing Fail"

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"Cord Nightmare"

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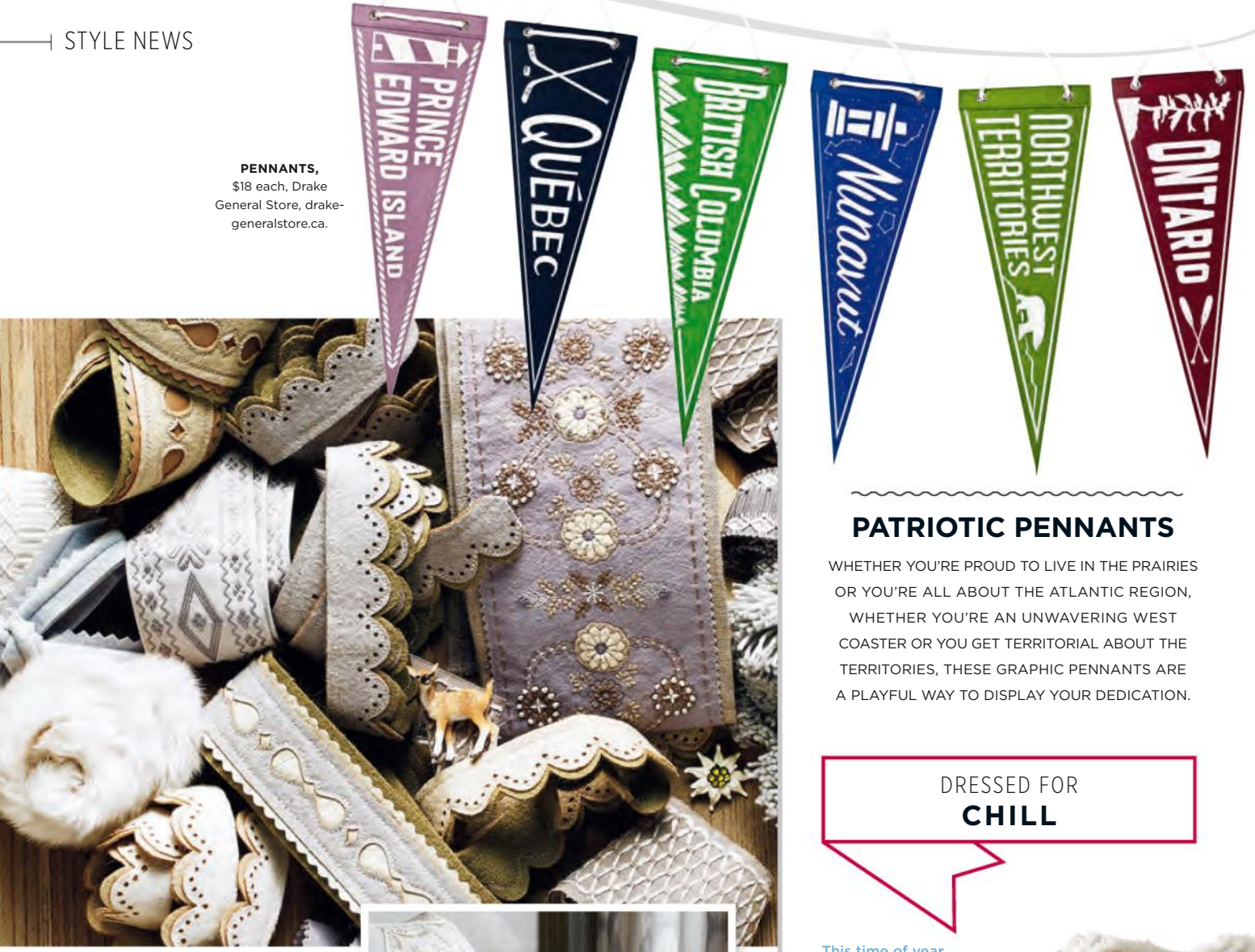

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NEW HEIGHTS

Admired for her signature muted yet luxurious style, designer **BARBARA BARRY LOOKS UP TO THE AUSTRIAN ALPS FOR HER LATEST WALL COVERING AND TEXTILE LINE.** Aptly named Chalet, the collection bears a cozy-meets-feminine feel, most evident in the lovely trims of scalloped felt, intricately embroidered tape and posh faux fur, executed in delicate wintry hues.

Barbara Barry for Kravet Couture Chalet **TRIM,** from $56 per yard, through designers, Kravet Canada, kravetcanada.com.

Toss cushions go from plain to just plain gorgeous with the addition of delicate trim.

DRESSED FOR **CHILL**

This time of year, it feels like you just can't put on enough layers, so it helps to dress your home accordingly. Stock up on warm throws to scatter among lounging spots throughout the house. For a timeless look that won't go out of fashion next winter, we're partial to a monochromatic Moroccan style or a classic striped option.

1. Striped sheep wool and cotton Moroccan Wedding **THROWS,** from $399 US each, Restoration Hardware, rh.com.

2. Twilight Collection brushed organic cotton Cirrus Stripe **THROWS,** $148 US each, Coyuchi, coyuchi.com.

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thumbprint *cookies*

Offering a *twist on a classic* is something that comes up a lot in the Style at Home offices, but it's never been *as yummy as this.* Our take on these traditional holiday cookies replaces the usual jam with three of our *favourite sweet spreads* – pure genius, if we do say so ourselves.

RECIPE
JENNIFER BARTOLI

PHOTOGRAPHY
MAYA VISNYEI

FOOD STYLING
CLAIRE STUBBS

PROP STYLING
ANN MARIE FAVOT

GIVE THANKS FOR

Apple Pie + Cheesecake

BAKED APPLE PIE CHEESECAKE

Prep: 30 min. | **Total Time:** 7 hours 10 min. | **Makes:** 16 servings

WHAT YOU NEED

- 3 Granny Smith apples (about 1 lb./450 g), peeled, sliced
- 1½ cups sugar, divided
- 1½ tsp. ground cinnamon, divided
- 1¼ cups graham crumbs
- ¼ cup quick-cooking oats
- 2 Tbsp. butter, melted
- 4 pkg. (250 g each) Philadelphia Brick Cream Cheese, softened
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup whipping cream

MAKE IT

Cook apples, 1/4 cup sugar and 1/2 tsp. cinnamon in saucepan on medium heat 6 min. or until apples are tender, stirring frequently. Cool.

Heat oven to 325°F. Combine graham crumbs, oats, butter, remaining cinnamon and 2 Tbsp. of the remaining sugar; press onto bottom of 9-inch springform pan.

Beat cream cheese, vanilla and 1 cup of the remaining sugar in medium bowl with mixer until blended. Add eggs, 1 at a time, mixing on low speed after each just until blended.

Spread half the apples over crust to within 1/2 inch of edge; cover with cream cheese mixture. Refrigerate remaining apples until ready to use.

Bake cheesecake 1 hour to 1 hour 10 min. or until centre is almost set. Run knife around rim of pan to loosen cake; cool before removing rim. Refrigerate cheesecake 4 hours.

Drain remaining apples just before serving cheesecake. Meanwhile, use clean beaters to beat whipping cream and remaining 2 Tbsp. sugar in clean medium bowl with mixer on high speed until stiff peaks form.

Arrange apples on top of cheesecake; top with whipped cream.

It must be the Philly®

Mix and match ***THE TOPPINGS AND BASES*** *for an artistic array of these delectable delights this season.*

INGREDIENTS

MAKES 3 DOZEN COOKIES

- 1 cup unsalted butter, softened
- ¾ cup icing sugar
- 1 tsp pure vanilla extract
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- ½ tsp ground ginger
- ¼ tsp salt
- ½ cup each: dulce de leche, chocolate-hazelnut spread and cookie butter
- Finely chopped nuts, cocoa and cinnamon (optional)

DIRECTIONS

Preheat the oven to 350°F. In a large bowl, beat the butter with the icing sugar until fluffy; beat in the vanilla. In a separate bowl, whisk together the flour, ginger and salt; stir into the butter mixture just until the ingredients are combined and come together to form a dough.

Shape the dough into thirty-six 1" balls.* Arrange 1" apart on parchment paper-lined baking sheets. Press your thumb into the centre of each ball, leaving an indentation; pinch together any cracks around the edges. Bake until the edges of the cookies are golden, about 12 minutes. Let the cookies cool on the sheets for 3 minutes, then transfer to racks to cool completely. When the cookies are cool, spoon a scant 1 teaspoon of filling into the well of each one.

*To roll the cookies in nuts, whisk 2 egg whites with 1 teaspoon water until frothy; place finely chopped nuts (such as pistachios, walnuts or hazelnuts) in a bowl. Using a fork, dip each dough ball into the egg mixture, then into the nuts to coat. Place on the prepared baking sheets and continue with the recipe as directed. To dust with cocoa or cinnamon, roll the dough balls into either cinnamon or cocoa powder, shaking off any excess. Place on the prepared baking sheets and continue with the recipe as directed.

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ONE ROOM *two budgets*

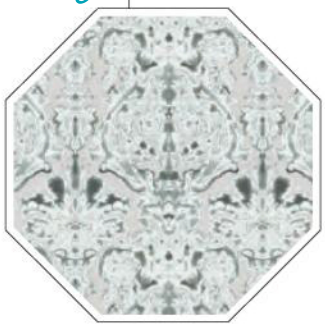
This is not your typical dining room.

Designed by Kiki Dennis and set in über-cool Brooklyn, New York, this eclectic space has the depth and intensity of an old, well-travelled soul.

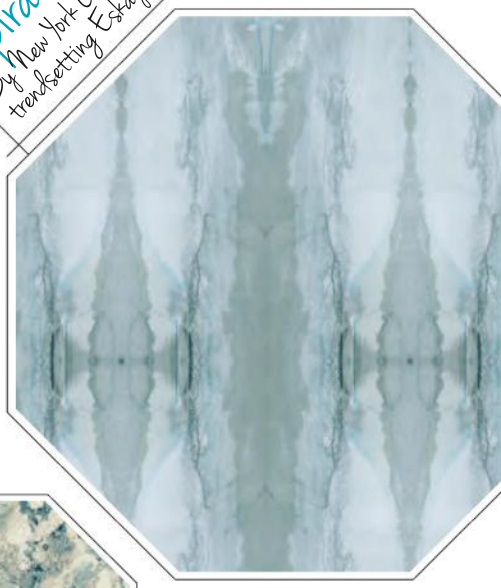
AND IT ALL BEGINS WITH THE **DRAMATIC WALLPAPER.**

A mesmerizing alternative to the usual white paint, the lively Eskayel wallcovering makes for a dynamic backdrop to the mélange of influences at play. The chairs, for instance, bring the fluid minimalism of Scandi-chic Mid-Century Modern style, while the earthenware vases and brass wall hanging introduce exotic, time-worn appeal. The lighting, too, is an unconventional grouping: The super sleek contemporary black pendant lights are a counterpoint to the traditional sconces' crisp white shades. Even the floral centrepiece sits pleasingly off-centre. Refined yet uncontrived, arresting yet inviting – this space is one to emulate, so we've teased out the key pieces for reconstructing the look, whether you're working with a high or a low budget.

high — By the Scotland-based daring duo behind Timorous Beasties.



inspiration — By New York City's trendsetting Eskayel



low — By Canadian decor darling Candice Olson.

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get the LOOK

The soothing grey-blue hues and hypnotic patterns of our High and Low picks perfectly imitate the original Eskayel wallpaper.

WALLPAPER

high $420

Timorous Beasties Rorschach Dam Classic **WALLPAPER** in Silver Grey 02, per double roll, NewWall, newwall.com.

low $50

York Wallcoverings Candice Olson Modern Luxe Inner Beauty **WALLPAPER** in Mist, per single roll, through designers, Crown Wallpaper & Fabrics, crownwallpaper.com.

BAR CABINET

Nathan Yong walnut and MDF Line **BAR CABINET,** Design Within Reach, dwr.com.

high $4,660

low $799US

Small walnut-veneered eucalyptus Mid-Century **BAR CABINET,** West Elm, westelm.com.

The walnut veneer of the Low option isn't as unique as the High's slat treatment, but it's striking in its own right.

ACCESSORIES

◂ **high** $125

Medium glazed stoneware Luana **VASE,** 16", Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.com.

▸ **low** $50

Accents de Ville glazed terracotta Tera Marble **VASE,** 9", Paboom, paboom.com.

◂ **high** $168

Three Posts painted iron Geoff **CANDLESTICKS,** 18", $84 each, Wayfair.ca.

▸ **low** $80

Antiqued-bronze-finished aluminum Emmett **CANDLESTICKS,** 15", $40 each, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.com.

CHAIR

◂ **high** $1,630
Møller walnut and leather Model 77 **DINING CHAIR,** Design Within Reach, dwr.com.

◂ **low** $349US
Wood and leather Tate **DINING CHAIR** in Obsidian, West Elm, westelm.com.

PENDANT LIGHTS

high $2,064
Tom Dixon Beat patinated brass **PENDANT LIGHTS** in Black, $688 each, The Modern Shop, themodernshop.ca.

Surely these designer originals inspired the low versions.

low $420
Jo Alcorn Connecticut painted steel **PENDANT LIGHTS** with copper-plated interiors, $140 each, Universal Lamp, greatlighting.com.

SCONCES

◂ **high** $310
Visual Comfort Thomas O'Brien 1-light brass and paper Bryant **SCONCE** in Hand-Rubbed Antique Brass, Union Lighting and Furnishings, unionlf.com.

▲ **low** $90
Sea Gull Lighting 1-light steel and etched glass Driscoll **SCONCE** in Satin Bronze Finish, $90, O.co.

If you really want to mimic the original sconce, use some black grosgrain ribbon and a glue gun to add a chic trim to the High's paper shade.

◂ **high** $249US
Antiqued-brass-finished iron Decorative Metal Disc **WALL HANGING,** 38", Pottery Barn, potterybarn.com.

▸ **low** $72US
Brass-finished aluminum Kasbah **TRAY** (used as wall hanging), 23", Jayson Home, jaysonhome.com.

WALL HANGING

fall into HOLIDAY

Toronto designer Montana Burnett's light decorating hand spells an easy transition from Thanksgiving to Christmas.

TEXT MARY LEVITSKI
PHOTOGRAPHY MARK BURSTYN
STYLING CHRISTINE HANLON

When it's Montana Burnett's turn to host her entire extended family over the holidays, the designer keeps her focus on the menu. Her midtown Toronto heritage home is stylish year-round – decorated in a timeless neutral scheme with inherited and collected classic pieces – so a few tweaks are all it takes to transition it from fall to winter (and company) ready. In the living room, for instance, she warms things up at summer's end by swapping the lightweight Moroccan throw on the sofa for a cozy wool one and replacing the crisp white toss cushions with persimmon-hued options. Then, come December, a tree and a few understated evergreen accents are added. "Ninety percent of my house stays the same all year," explains Montana. Read on for eight truly simple steps to achieving this hostess's less-is-more holiday look.

1. Stay True In this chic home, permanent fixtures – including jaw-dropping original Georgian-era architectural features, antique furniture and evocative large-scale artwork – maintain their prominence with the arrival of holiday decor. The Balsam fir trimmed with neutral-hued ornaments, along with the hushed white poinsettia, make for modest complements.

2. Package Plainly While Montana wraps most of her gifts in polished white and black – "They would look equally elegant for any other occasion," she says – a few are packaged in leftover Hermès bags and boxes. The bold orange parcels pair perfectly with her unconventional carried-over-from-fall colour scheme.

3. Let in the Light Cooler temperatures spell shorter days, so Montana keeps the main-floor window shutters open to maximize light. Views of the snow-covered cityscape beyond effortlessly lend a wintry feeling to the indoors.

4. Turn Up the Heat The wood-burning fireplace is well used at this time of year, creating a pleasing atmosphere for guests and resident cairn terriers Suki (pictured) and Bean alike.

5. Scent the Air One subtle way to usher in the holidays is by using the nostalgia of fragrance. In addition to employing the olfactory effect of greenery, this homeowner likes to pepper her place with candles that emit season-signalling scents, such as fig and redcurrant.

6. Stock Spirits Thanks to the ersatz bar that lives on her living room's built-in bookcase year-round, Montana is always ready to mix a drink for guests – be it a Dark and Stormy in fall or a Moscow Mule in winter. Personal items, including well-loved books, family photos and exotic heirlooms, enhance the welcoming vibe.

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115-109

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115-108

7. Thwart Themes This designer has an aversion to in-your-face festive, so nary a candy cane nor sprig of mistletoe graces her home. The chic office (visible from the dining room through a dramatic archway) is a perfect example of a room that doesn't get touched by Christmas. "I want my guests to feel warm and cozy," she says, "but I don't think that means having Rudolph figurines on display."

8. Blend Influences "Ours is truly a modern family," says Montana, noting that holiday dinners with her relatives include a traditional turkey alongside potato latkes. "It's a mishmash, much like my decor." The tablescape is case in point: Quintessential Christmas greenery in the form of evergreen sprigs and magnolia leaves jibes with fall-feel notes, such as bright pops of orange and gourd-shaped bud vases, as well as summery elements like ticking-striped napkins and linen placemats.

DESIGN, Montana Burnett Design, montanaburnett-design.com; Cloud White CC-40 **WALL & TRIM PAINT** (throughout, except office), Benjamin Moore.

LIVING ROOM: PEDESTAL TABLE, TABLE LAMPS, TRAY (on coffee table), L'Atelier; **DAYBED** (customized), Stanley Wagman Antiques; antique demi-lune **TABLE,** Robert Noakes International; Decorator's White CC-20 **BOOKSHELF PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; seagrass **RUG,** RugsUSA.com; woman *Untitled, 1981* **ARTWORK,** Robert Longo; **THROW** (on daybed), Louis Vuitton; **WREATH, GARLAND** (on fireplace), Sheridan Nurseries.

DINING ROOM: *Zac #2* **ARTWORK** by Charles Bierk, Nicholas Metivier Gallery; magnolia **BOUGHS,** Sheridan Nurseries.

OFFICE: Escarpment CC-518 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore.

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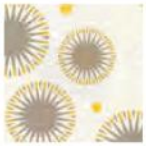

MODERN GEOMETRY

Bold patterns and shapes executed in a brighter palette are anything but staid. The look is eclectic, with artisanal patterns and geometric shapes clashing—in a good way. Black and white temper the riot of colors and help anchor the space.

GLOBAL ARTISTRY

Inspired by travel and adventure, the trend is a modern take on global patterns, fabrics, and crafts. It's all in the mix. Embroidery, caning, animal hides, even macramé, give a handcrafted, organic feel to accessories. Soft pastels contrast with deep blues and greys. Ethnic accents complete the look.

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From dazzling decorating ideas to rapturous wrapping tips to glitzy gift-giving options, our holiday stories have everything you need to shine this season!

plus

WHAT'S YOUR HOLIDAY STYLE? TAKE OUR QUIZ!

*

DECK THE HALLS

*

PRETTY PAPER CRAFTS

Forgo the bow in favour of a snowflake-inspired adornment.

PHOTOGRAPHY: VIRGINIA MACDONALD

TAKE OUR QUIZ TO

UNWRAP *your signature* HOLIDAY STYLE

Ever find yourself singing, "Santa, baby, *just tell me* how to decorate my tree?" If determining your home's holiday look is your own personal nightmare before Christmas, fear not. We're here to help. Answer the following questions to discover a festive style that suits you just as well as that bushy beard suits jolly old St. Nick. Armed with inspiration and easy ways to deck your halls, you'll be singing a different tune as you decorate this year.

PRODUCER SARA CATION

Glass 3-candle Labra **CANDELABRA,** $27, CB2, cb2.com.

1 Which winter wreath would you hang?

- ☐ 1. Silver Belle **(A)**
- ☐ 2. Magnificent Magnolia **(B)**
- ☐ 3. Beautiful Blues **(C)**
- ☐ 4. Feathery Evergreen **(D)**

No. 3 What's your must-watch Christmas movie?

- ☐ *A Christmas Story* **(D)**
- ☐ *It's a Wonderful Life* **(A)**
- ☐ *Love Actually* **(C)**
- ☐ *The Muppet Christmas Carol* **(B)**

4

WHICH CANDLES will you set out this season?

- ☐ White tapers in a glass candelabra **(A)**
- ☐ Burlap-wrapped jar candles in scents of pine and cinnamon **(D)**
- ☐ A selection of unscented tea lights and votives in mercury glass containers **(B)**
- ☐ Standard white pillars in glass hurricane lanterns **(C)**

2 Pick the prettiest gift wrap:

☐ Sparkly Stunner **(B)**

☐ Snowflake Chic **(C)**

☐ Natural Wonder **(D)**

☐ Golden Glamour **(A)**

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK, DONNA GRIFFITH, JOE KIM, RYAN BROOK(3), STACEY BRANDFORD, RYAN BROOK

5 Which wallpaper would you use for an accent wall?

1. Buffalo Beauty (D) Burnside Buffalo Check **WALLPAPER** in Black, $178 US per double roll, Caitlin Wilson, caitlinwilson.com.

2. Fabulous Forest (C) Cole & Son Woods **WALLPAPER** in 69/12151, $268 per double roll, through designers, Kravet Canada, kravet-canada.com.

3. Leafy Lustre (B) Paradise Found **WALLPAPER,** $149 US per double roll, Anthropologie, anthropologie.com.

4. Divine Damask (A) St Antoine **WALLPAPER** in BP 942, $265 per double roll, Farrow & Ball, farrow-ball.com.

6 Select a pair of HOLIDAY PJS:

- ☐ A monogrammed crisp white button-down nightshirt and matching pants **(A)**
- ☐ A long sleep tee featuring a flamingo donning a Santa hat **(B)**
- ☐ Cozy blue and green plaid flannels **(D)**
- ☐ A silky nightgown with lace trim **(C)**

Flannel Blackwatch **PYJAMAS,** $124 per 2-piece set, J.Crew, jcrew.com.

8 Pick an ornament:

1. Geometric Gem (C) Martha Stewart Living Winter Wishes **ORNAMENT** in Turquoise, Blue & White, $50 per 100-piece set, The Home Depot, homedepot.ca.

2. Kitschy Ketchup (B) Ketchup **ORNAMENT,** $13, Drake General Store, drakegeneralstore.ca.

3. Holiday Hoot (D) Glitter Owl Burry **ORNAMENT,** $10, Indigo, indigo.ca.

4. Canadian Classic (A) HBC Collection **ORNAMENT,** $35 per set of 6, Hudson's Bay, thebay.com.

No. 7 Your Christmas tree is:

- ☐ Never the same. It could be a cheeky play on a Charlie Brown tree or a brightly coloured one – once you even used a fig tree you already had **(B)**
- ☐ Real, tall, fragrant and flocked **(A)**
- ☐ A short-needled pine that's tidy, tailored and easy to put up and take down **(C)**
- ☐ An imperfect long-needled pine, freshly chopped from the forest **(D)**

Canvas Powered by Noma lifelike pre-lit Harrison Noble Fir **CHRISTMAS TREE,** 8′, $500, Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

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9 Which Christmas lights do you prefer?

- ☐ **Vintage-look Edisons** (B)
- ☐ **LED strip** (C)
- ☐ **Twinkle** (A)
- ☐ **Multicoloured** (D)

No. 10 Which **winter throw** would you rather wrap yourself in?

- ☐ Delicate cashmere (A)
- ☐ Heavy wool buffalo-check (D)
- ☐ Soft chenille (C)
- ☐ Brightly coloured fleece (B)

11 Choose a Christmas card to send out:

1. Elves at Work (B)
Merry Elves
CARD, $5 US, Rifle Paper Co., riflepaperco.com.

2. Scripted Christmas (A)
Merry Little Lines
CARD, from $79 per set of 25, Minted, minted.com.

3. Holly Days (D)
CARD, $8, Handmades by Rovena, handmadesrovena.etsy.com.

4. Paisley Reindeer (C)
CARD, $7, Hallmark, hallmark.ca.

12 How do you usually spend **CHRISTMAS EVE?**

- ☐ Hosting or attending a cocktail party (C)
- ☐ Enjoying quality time with family playing board games and watching Christmas movies (B)
- ☐ Serving up a family dinner followed by everyone opening one present – invariably pyjamas (A)
- ☐ Doing something outdoors – be it skating, taking a winter walk to see the neighbourhood Christmas lights or sipping cocoa on the front porch (D)

PHOTOGRAPHY, ISTOCKPHOTO (CHRISTMAS LIGHTS, SCRABBLE TILES, SKATES), MICHAEL NANGREAVES (THROWS)

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WHAT YOUR SCORE SAYS ABOUT *your style*

MOSTLY As
FORMAL ELEGANT

For those of you who ride or die by the more-is-more mantra, this season is yours to own. Christmas is the time to indulge the Mr. or Mrs. Claus in you and go all out. Generous is your style – not only for gift giving but for decorating, too. This is your moment to go the extra mile with fuller garlands, bigger bows and a tablescape topped with the cherished china you save for special occasions. That's what homeowner Jennifer Jarmuszewski did in "A Collector's Christmas," so turn to page 76 and get inspired.

MOSTLY Bs
COLOURFUL ECLECTIC

Kitsch, please! You're all about it. Cheerful? Of course! Cutesy? Yup. Gimmicky? Sure – as long as it's also chic. You have fun with your festive displays, strategically straying from convention with unexpected elements like a fiddle-leaf fig tree (evergreens are unnecessary, anyway!), a sunny, summery palette (red and green isn't a holiday law) and quirky baubles that aren't all Santas, silver bells and reindeer. Looking for options? Turn to Spotlight (page 106) for a roundup of ornaments sure to make you smile.

MOSTLY Cs
FRESH CONTEMPORARY

Clean lined, pared back and mostly muted, your decor – whether for the holidays or for every day – embodies luxe minimalism. You're all about restraint, from the Christmas colour palette that blends with your existing decor to the tree decked in a streamlined selection of ornaments. You love a healthy dose of yuletide style (metallics and greenery are a must), but you never go over the top. Blogger Monika Hibbs has this look down pat. Check out her holiday style in "Hello, Lovely Holiday" (page 82).

MOSTLY Ds
RUSTIC COUNTRY

Your keywords for Christmas are casual, natural and understated. While you're all for festive holiday flair, you're more likely to decorate with wintery details you've foraged from the forest than with brightly coloured store-bought baubles. Peek outside at any sylvan scene and you'll spot your palette: shades of green, white and grey accented with weathered wooden elements. Sound like your look? Then turn to "Magic Moments" (page 90) to meet your style soulmate.

PHOTOGRAPHY, DONNA GRIFFITH(2), VIRGINIA MACDONALD, ROBIN STUBBERT

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MY COLOUR
DEFY STUBBORN GREYS
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Silvia's colour is #8G Medium Golden Blonde.

PAPER *whites*

Pull out the string, tape, paper and scissors – with a little creativity, these everyday materials can be transformed into decorations that bring to life a whimsical winter wonderland.

TEXT SUZANNE MOUTIS

PHOTOGRAPHY, ANDREAS HOERNISCH/LIVING4MEDIA

/make snow fall

WALL PAPER

Craft your very own snowfall with these pretty avant-garde snowflakes made by accordion-folding white craft paper into pinwheels and snipping with scissors. Add in one or two bold-hued pinwheels for impact.

WRAP STARS

A tableau of gifts dressed up in white wrapping will lend an ethereal effect both under your tree and around your home. And don't skimp on the ribbon – let it trail delicately from the presents in long sweeping curls.

/give some magic

ADVENT HONOURS

Forget brown paper packages – these sweet gift bags embellished with paper cut-outs and "sewn" up with string make a fun Advent calendar. Numbered paper hearts on the ends of the ties indicate the days.

BOW BEAUTIFUL

Rethink the ubiquitous holiday bows this year by making your own signature snowflake gift adornments using white craft paper and scissors. Use contrasting string to attach these beauties to your parcels.

LINER NOTES

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/let it bloom

BRANCHING OUT

Paper roses have nothing on these fragile flowers made from twists of white tissue. Easy to make and elegant to behold, this simple arrangement is a pure nod to winter.

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BALL GAMES

Few things are as satisfying as decking your halls with home-made ornaments. These delicate spheres are a cinch to make with strips of craft paper and string. Display them on your table, tree or mantel, or send them off with visitors as take-home treats after a holiday soiree.

CLEVER COVERS

Dinner guests will love these adorable covers made by cutting patterns into accordion-folded lengths of paper and securing them around drinking glasses with tree candle clips.

SNOWY SETTINGS

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25+ holiday gifts we ♥

6

5

4

1. PEN PALS Bower turned brass and maple Tipsy Writer **PEN HOLDERS** (pens included), $39 each, Brika, brika.com.

2. HASHTAG AWESOME Assorted Symbol # **MARQUEE SIGN** in White, 6″ x 8″, $20, Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

3. RING BEARER Medium stoneware Indigo Illustration **TRINKET DISH,** $14 US, Anthropologie, anthropologie.com.

4. TASTEFUL TOWER Ommo plastic **TIERED TRAY** in Suede, $62, Drake General Store, drakegeneralstore.ca.

5. JOYFUL JUGS Glass Milk Bottle Sipper **BOTTLES,** $12 US each, Anthropologie, anthropologie.com.

6. PETITE POT Rosanna Jazz Age porcelain lidded Pardon My French **BOX,** 3″ x 2″, $28, Inter-Continental Mercantile, icmcanada.ca.

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PERFECT FOR *your pooch*

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7. SUCCULENT STATIONERY Smudge Design Prickly Paired personalized **NOTECARD** with straight edge in Leaf, $71 per pack of 25 (includes kraft envelopes), Minted, minted.com.

8. FURBALL FEEDER Unleashed Life reclaimed steel Easton **DOG BOWL,** from $43, O.co.

9. TUNES TO GO Bang & Olufsen portable Bluetooth Beoplay A1 **SPEAKER** in Natural, $299, Amazon.ca.

10. LAND LINE BLING Wild & Wolf 746 **TELEPHONE** in Copper, $120, Hudson's Bay, thebay.com.

11. MODERN OLD-FASHIONED Handmade glass Mixology **COCKTAIL GLASSES** with 20-karat gold lettering, $60 US per set of 4, Vital Industries, vital.etsy.com.

12. PLAY PLANT Felted Corriedale wool **FAUX SUCCULENT** in Mint Green with terracotta pot in Copper, $40, Contrabotanic, contrabotanic.etsy.com.

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13. POLYGONAL PLANTER Glass Dodecahedron **VASE,** $62 US, macramé waxed cotton cord **HANGER,** $25 US, Jayson Home, jaysonhome.com.

14. COZY GEOMETRY Regenerated cotton blend Rockin' Moroccan **THROW,** $185 US, Mood Design Studio, mooddesignstudio.etsy.com.

15. FIERCE FRAME Lacquered wood Turner **PICTURE FRAME** with brass appliqués, 4" x 4", $128 US, Jonathan Adler, jonathanadler.com.

16. SIMPLY IRRESISTIBLE SERVEWARE Fairfax large hand-glazed porcelain **PLATTER,** $58 US, and small **BOWL,** $48 US per set of 4, both in Blue, Serena & Lily, serenaandlily.com.

17. STYLISH SCENTERS Crystal Mini **PERFUME BOTTLES,** 3", $8 each, HomeSense, homesense.ca.

18. COMMEMORATIVE CUSHION Personalized linen Love **TOSS CUSHION** with feather and down insert in Natural & Navy, 12" x 16", $42 US, Yun & Yoonie, yunandyoonie.etsy.com.

19. BAKER'S BUDS Brass-plated stainless steel Pineapple **MEASURING CUPS,** $48 US per 4-piece set, Anthropologie, anthropologie.com.

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20

21

Fresh's limited edition zodiac-themed soap collection hits stores in December, just in time for last-minute shoppers.

22

27

PERFECT FOR *the Drake devotee*

26

Please your favourite girl boss with a cheeky dessert plate.

24

23

25

20. CUTE CARRIER Beaded cotton **POUCH** in Gold Triangle, $29 US, West Elm, westelm.com.

21. STOCKING STUFFER Eye Opening **MASCARA,** $35, Bobbi Brown, bobbibrown.ca.

22. HOROSCOPIC SOAP Fresh Zodiac Oval Cancer **BAR SOAPS,** $18 each, Sephora, sephora.ca.

23. TABLETOP TRINKET Lucky Charm Hamsa **OBJET,** 4″ x 3″, $20, Indigo, indigo.ca.

24. RAINBOW HOLDER Plastic Unicorn **PENCIL HOLDER,** $25, Kikkerland, kikkerland.com.

25. LITTLE DIPPER Marble and acacia wood **DIP BOWL** (with 2 polished brass spoons), 5″, $35, Indigo, indigo.ca.

26. SWEETS SPOT Porcelain Stay Fancy **DESSERT PLATE,** $5, HomeSense, homesense.ca.

27. POP CULTURE CUP Greg Voisin ceramic Drake's Hotline Bling **MUG** in Pink, $25, One of a Kind Online Shop, oneofakindonlineshop.com.

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ROYAL VELVET

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get adventive

Forgo the chocolate Advent calendar this year in favour of a fabulous DIY creation. Count down the days until Christmas with 24 mini paper gift bags. Embellish each with natural finds like twigs and sprigs of greenery before securing them onto a fabric-covered corkboard.

Ticking **FABRIC,** Designer Fabrics.

A NORDIC NOEL

TEXT
BRITTANY DEVENYI

PHOTOGRAPHY
ROBIN STUBBERT

PRODUCER
CHRISTINE HANLON

embrace nature

Bring the serenity of Scandi style into your home by drawing inspiration from the wintry outdoors. Here, a fresh evergreen wreath and garland, bird ornaments and a stack of logs subtly spruce up the fireplace wall.

Iced Cube Silver 2121-50 **WALL PAINT** (throughout), Chantilly Lace OC-65 **FIREPLACE, MANTEL & TRIM PAINT** (throughout), Benjamin Moore; **CABINET,** Cornerstone Home Interiors; **GREENERY** (throughout), Sheridan Nurseries; faux sheepskin **THROW,** IKEA.

Come winter, the coziness and understated beauty that define Scandinavian design are all the more welcome – and this Toronto abode lets it be known. Read on for eight Swedish decor ideas worth stealing this season.

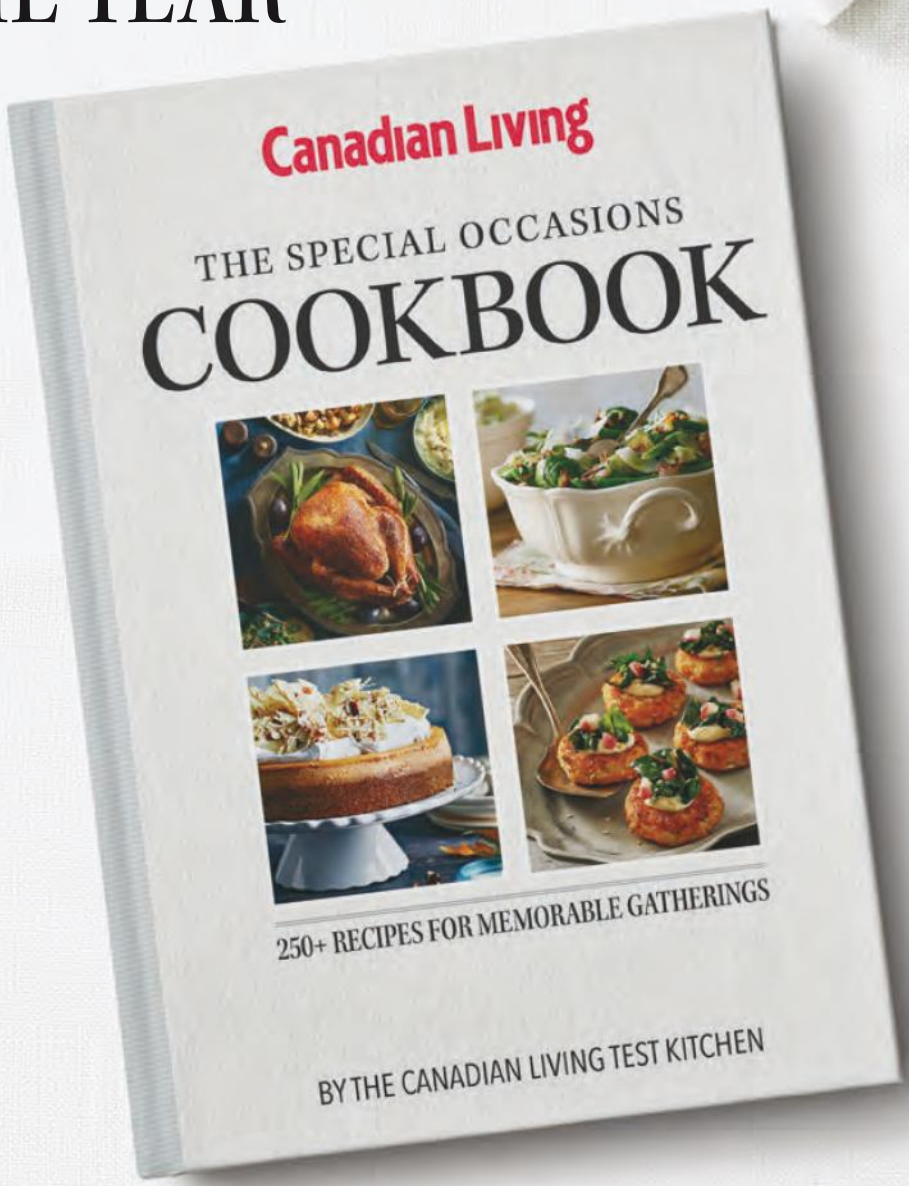
pare back parcels Let's face it: Wrapping holiday presents in layers of red and green is a tad overdone. Go against the grain this year and opt for soft-hued paper, such as this white ribbed style. Then adorn your gifts with burlap ribbon and sleek DIY gift tags.

style strategically Nordic design is all about capturing the magic of minimalism – even at Christmas. Scope out simple yet striking seasonal adornments like the ornate paper snowflakes festooning this banister, which nod to the holidays but are still in keeping with the entryway's calming neutral palette.

CHAIR (customized), IKEA; Pure White **CHAIR PAINT,** Annie Sloan; hardwood **FLOORING,** Pekat Construction; **PENDANT LIGHT,** Elte.

add whimsy While there's nothing wrong with decking out your home in an array of colourful baubles, the Swedes favour subtler star-shaped decorations. Think of the bunting seen here as an alternative to string lights that's quieter but still offers the same dreamy quality.

35 MENUS FOR ENTERTAINING THROUGHOUT THE YEAR



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☐ *create seasonal swag*

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US clinical test, 52 women evaluated at *2 weeks and **8 weeks.
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Elizabeth Arden
NEW YORK

☐ *welcome neutrals* How do you take a muted space from sterile to sophisticated? Home in on the details. Elements like mismatched chairs and a non-operational fireplace filled with logs lend enough interest to this bright dining room so that, come December, a few festive accents feel like plenty.

DINING TABLE (customized), Restoration Hardware; Philippe Starck **DINING CHAIRS, PENDANT LIGHT,** Elte; **END CHAIR** (customized), IKEA; Pure White **END CHAIR PAINT,** Annie Sloan; linen **DRAPERY,** CB2.

☐ *layer textures* When temperatures dip into the negative double-digits, we crave all types of comfort. Emulate the Swedish way of combatting the cold with heaps of texture, whether through small details (stylish place settings and votive candle holders wrapped in yarn) or larger additions (a faux sheepskin throw).

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ALL THE TRIMMINGS

Calm, bright, sparkly, shiny, rustic, whimsical, natural or full-on traditional – whatever your holiday style, there's no doubt that this is truly the most wonderful time of the year. We're sharing our wishes for a season filled with magic and meaning. Scrooges need not apply.

History and tradition are a big part of how this homeowner decorates – and they're key to how her family celebrates the holidays, too.

A COLLECTOR'S CHRISTMAS

TEXT JENNIFER HUGHES

PHOTOGRAPHY ROBIN STUBBERT

STYLING TARA BALLANTYNE

Homeowner Jennifer Jarmuszewski's prized collection of rare antique blue transferware – the inspiration for the dining room's moody blue colour scheme – is prominently displayed in a custom-built hutch with a fresh green-painted interior that makes the plates pop. Simple evergreen wreaths and sprigs on the table add a refined holiday touch to the ultra-elegant space.

DESIGN, Habermehl Design Group, habermehldesigngroup.com; **CONTRACTING,** Milla Homes; Blue Note 2129-30 **WALL PAINT,** Black Iron 2120-20 **HUTCH PAINT,** Terrapin Green 2145-20 **HUTCH INTERIOR PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; custom **HUTCH,** Mike Bebenek Carpentry; **DINING TABLE,** Cocoon Furnishings; antique **DINING CHAIRS** (customized), Angus & Company; Schumacher **DINING CHAIR FABRIC,** Bilbrough & Co.; **RUG,** Cornerstone Home Interiors; **CHANDELIER,** South Hill Home; **GREENERY** (throughout), The Flower Studio; **RIBBON** (throughout), Mokuba.

LEFT Helping decorate the tree is a holiday ritual that Jennifer's kids, Julia and Benjamin Jarmuszewski, cherish. Glittery blue and silver ornaments mingle with avian-themed ones (inspired by the settee's bird-print fabric) and, of course, kid-made treasures. But a family favourite is a hinged box ornament with the words "Christmas Wishes" on it. "Before we hang it, we each add a written wish for the coming year," says Jennifer.

Natural Cream OC-14 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **SETTEE,** Châtelet; **SIDE TABLE,** Decorum Decorative Finds; **RUG,** Cocoon Furnishings; **ARTWORK,** Gerard Brender à Brandis; **TABLE LAMP,** HomeSense.

BELOW, LEFT & RIGHT This spot in the dining room was too small for a sideboard, so an antique dresser was used instead. It serves as an ersatz bar, which is convenient for topping up drinks at dinner.

Oxford White CC-30 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; antique **DRESSER & TABLE LAMPS,** Angus & Company.

It goes without saying that the most memorable family holidays are steeped in nostalgia – blending traditions from past generations with new ones – but they become all the more meaningful when the home itself already has stories to tell. That's the case in the southern Ontario home Jennifer Jarmuszewski shares with her husband, Colin Todd, and two children, Julia, 9, and Benjamin, 7. The entryway and formal living and dining rooms of their 3,500-square-foot new-build house are decorated in a classic holiday style that perfectly complements the home's elegant interior, accentuating the art and antiques Jennifer has been collecting most of her life.

To pull together the everyday design of the home and marry her traditional taste with the needs of a young family, Jennifer sought the help of designer Alison Habermehl of Habermehl Design Group. "Luckily I came on board early in the building stage, so we were able to customize the design," says Alison. "We raised the main-floor doorways and added transoms over them, as well as selected finishes that better suited Jennifer's style." The addition of applied mouldings to the entryway and dining room, for example, gives the home architectural distinction, while glass door knobs used throughout are small details that create luxe sparkle.

When it came time to select furnishings, a lot of inspiration was pulled from Jennifer's belongings. "She has many fine collections," says Alison, referring to the antique chairs, bird and Staffordshire dog figurines, as well as antique boxes. "To make them all work within the traditional and sophisticated design scheme, I kept like pieces together to avoid a look that's too precious or cluttered."

LEFT Though they're newer pieces, the ornate concrete console and architectural reclaimed wood mirror lend the entryway an old-world look that suits the home's elegance. The voluminous magnolia-leaf garland offers a luxe touch for the holidays.

Oxford White CC-30 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **CONSOLE, MIRROR,** Angus & Company; **LIGHT FIXTURE,** Restoration Hardware.

Jennifer's Flow Blue dishware – coveted antique transferware with blurred blue and white motifs – makes an eclectic tablescape when mixed with more contemporary gold-detailed plates and green scalloped ones. Adorned with name tags secured to pretty mercury-glass ornaments, each place setting offers a memento guests can take home.

Gold-detailed **PLATES,** HomeSense.

Jennifer's Christmas checklist

- ☐ A palette of deep, moody blues with silver accents
- ☐ A standout table setting featuring antique dishware
- ☐ Whimsical avian-themed accents
- ☐ Elegant evergreens and magnolia-leaf garlands
- ☐ Kid-crafted ornaments
- ☐ Meaningful collectibles

RIGHT The living room's slender, curvaceous settee is offset by the geometric gallery wall of small engraved wood artwork grouped above – another example of Jennifer's passion for collecting. Every time she makes the trip to Stratford, Ont., she can't resist popping into artist Gerard Brender à Brandis's studio to purchase another piece to add to the display.

COFFEE TABLE, Decorum Decorative Finds; **CHRISTMAS TREE,** Benjamin Tree Farm; **TREE SKIRT,** Balsam Hill.

One collection even inspired the dining room's colour scheme, which matches Jennifer's treasury of Flow Blue dinnerware (blurred blue and white transferware popular in the 19th century). "I can perfectly remember buying one of the dishes while visiting my grandmother," says Jennifer. "So many of my pieces are tied to specific memories."

The blue theme that started with the dinnerware carries through to holiday time. Vibrant blue dishes get layered onto the dinner table alongside beloved Waterford crystal and Wedgwood china. "It's so lovely to see beautiful crystal and china getting used in a young family home," says Alison. The tablescape is amplified with green and metallic accents to keep the look modern. Fresh greenery set in one of Jennifer's antique bowls serves as a striking non-traditional centrepiece, matching the simple evergreen accents elsewhere – an effective way to bring Christmas cheer (and glorious aromas) into the home.

Of course, the same could be said for the Christmas tree, which glitters with blue and silver ornaments that share space with treasured kid-crafted trinkets. "The ones created by my children are my favourites," says Jennifer. "They're so fun to pull out every year as the kids get older. They love looking back at what they've made." It's just another example of how Jennifer's stunning collections are rooted in time-honoured traditions the whole family will cherish for many Christmases to come.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

hello, lovely HOL

TEXT SARA CATION
PHOTOGRAPHY TRACEY AYTON

For lifestyle blogger Monika Hibbs, Christmas is all about sentiment and style. Here are 12 ways she pulls off a fresh look filled with meaning to commemorate a family milestone.

LD AY

1

Lifestyle blogger and unofficial queen of fresh and elegant holiday decor Monika Hibbs has three main tips for trimming a tree: Start with a colour scheme ("You don't have to use every ornament in your box – save the ones that don't suit your theme for another year," she advises); instead of buying one-off ornaments, go for groups of three for visual impact; and organize them by category (like glass balls or felted figures) before hanging them to ensure balanced distribution.

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN, Su Casa Design; **CONTRACTING, MILLWORK** (throughout), Wescraft; Behr Polar Bear 75 **WALL PAINT** (throughout) and Ultra Pure White 1850 **MOULDING PAINT** (throughout), The Home Depot; flocked **CHRISTMAS TREE,** Hunters Garden Centre; **SIDE TABLE,** Joss & Main; **DRAPERY,** Q. Design Perfect Drapery and Shades; **RUG,** RugsUSA.com; pink **LUMBAR CUSHIONS,** Arianna Belle; **TEA LIGHT HOLDERS,** The Cross Decor & Design; wooden **STARS,** HomeSense.

2 "There's something special about a fire this time of year," says Monika. The one here in her family room is not the only staple flame of the season – tea lights are strewn on surfaces throughout the house, and the outdoor fireplace plays host to many a morning coffee or evening cocoa. "I love a fire's warmth and random crackles, which add to the magic of the holidays."

Custom **FIREPLACE MANTEL,** Lyonstone; sheepskin **RUG,** Joss & Main; custom **STOCKINGS, STOCKING HOLDERS,** house **MANTEL ORNAMENTS,** The Cross Decor & Design; cedar **GARLAND** (customized, also used as wreath), Hunters Garden Centre; **RIBBONS,** Shy Myrtle.

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without family and tradition, sure, but in Monika Hibbs's home, Christmas also wouldn't be complete without her signature styling. Based just outside of Fort Langley, B.C., the blogger, who has quickly become a master of holiday decor, switches up her style almost every year. But regardless of the theme, these aspects always remain: A classic look and neutral scheme, metallic touches, a hint of whimsy and sheer covetability. Seasonal styling is a talent Monika has honed since she was a little girl. "Even when I was young, I loved adorning the tree and wrapping gifts," she says. "Plus, my mom *always* let me be in charge of floral arrangements and tablescapes."

Now that Monika has her own family (including hubby Troy, three-year-old Liam and 11-month-old Lillya), she shares the tasks with her children. "Liam's really into it," says Monika. "He decorates cookies, hangs ornaments and arranges the manger." Though Lillya is too young to get involved, her arrival just two weeks before last Christmas inspired the entire feminine theme, executed with dusty rose-hued accents like tea light holders, wrapping paper and delicate raw silk ribbon.

Holiday decorating with the kids isn't the only tradition the Hibbses have – they enjoy hot chocolate by their outdoor fireplace in the evenings and always make time for charity. But a highlight is taking the Bright Nights Christmas Train through Stanley Park with Troy's family. "There's around 60 of us – we fill the whole train," says Monika, noting that the park is lit with millions of lights – perhaps the perfect place for this family-oriented champion of Christmas who also happens to have a penchant for sparkle.

PHOTOGRAPHY, MARY KONKIN (FAMILY PORTRAIT)

3 Style meets sentiment in chic pieces that commemorate family milestones, such as the decorative houses arranged on Monika's fireplace mantel. "Each one represents a huge moment for us, from the purchase of our first home to the construction of this one," she says. "And I write a note on the bottom of each so I never forget."

4 Monika doesn't switch out much of her everyday decor come Christmastime. In fact, furniture placement, artwork and accents mostly stay the same, save for a few toss cushions that get traded for more festive ones.

SOFA, Restoration Hardware; **SELECT ARTWORK,** Annawithlove Photography, Minted, Sarah Swanson Design, SS Print Shop, Stephanie Jean Design; Joy **TOSS CUSHION,** Indigo; **TOSS CUSHIONS,** The Cross Decor & Design.

5 When it comes to garlands, Monika goes all out: She orders a massive length of fresh cedar (last year it was 75 feet!) to string along her banister, mantel, exterior trim and garage. She starts by measuring everything she wants to adorn and then adds an extra foot of cedar for every four feet to accommodate swag. Here, the garland is garnished with eucalyptus, cypress, pine cones and raw silk bows with cascading tails for a fresh, feminine look.

FLOORING, Divine Flooring; cedar **GARLAND** (customized), Hunters Garden Centre; **RIBBONS,** Shy Myrtle.

6

6 "You don't need to cook an entire sit-down dinner for each of the season's many parties," says Monika, who prefers to prep for a holiday drop-in with comfort foods like homemade apple pie. "It's elegant but cozy," she explains.

Custom **CABINETRY,** Nickels Cabinets; marble **COUNTERTOP & BACKSPLASH SLABS,** Margranite Industry; **COUNTERTOP & BACKSPLASH INSTALLATION,** SSC Countertops; subway **WALL TILES,** World Mosaic Tile; **FAUCET,** Kohler; **STOOLS,** Ballard Designs; **PENDANT LIGHT, SCONCES, VASE,** The Cross Decor & Design; **CHAMPAGNE BUCKET,** HomeSense; **FLORAL ARRANGEMENT,** Floralista Flower Studio.

7 Roses may be unconventional Christmas flowers, but they're perfectly suited to Monika's pretty-in-pink theme. "Originally, I wanted this piece to be a garland that wrapped around the whole range hood," says Monika. "But it didn't look right, so I downsized the idea. It's perfect proof that sometimes less is more."

Thermador **RANGE & RANGE HOOD INSERT,** Coast Wholesale Appliances; **POT FILLER,** Kohler; **BOUGH,** Floralista Flower Studio.

8 A simple wreath hung with thick ribbon serves as another example of less is more and offers a wink of holiday spirit in an otherwise unadorned area.

RUG, Pottery Barn Kids; **WREATH,** HomeSense.

9 Sparkling rosé served in pink champagne coupes underscores the holiday colour scheme, while whimsical details like frozen-rose ice cubes and sugared cranberries are easy and inexpensive ways to add serious wow factor.

TRAY, CHAMPAGNE COUPES, The Cross Decor & Design.

10

Monika's Christmas checklist

- ☐ A real flocked Christmas tree
- ☐ A cohesive colour scheme
- ☐ Simple wrapping paper, plus one playful print for the kids
- ☐ Candles and a roaring fire
- ☐ Sentimental ornaments marking family milestones
- ☐ Generous lengths of fresh cedar garland
- ☐ Metallic accents that sparkle and shine
- ☐ A signature cocktail that suits her holiday palette
- ☐ Comfort food to match the coziness of the season

10 No matter her holiday scheme, Monika tends to stick to neutrals when picking gift wrap. "I usually choose paper with subtle patterns, such as snowflakes or polka dots," she says. "But I always wrap the kids' presents in something more playful."

Kraft **GIFT WRAP,** HomeSense; pink present-patterned **GIFT WRAP,** Rifle Paper Co.

11 Born six weeks after the Hibbses moved into this house and two weeks before Christmas, baby Lillya was the main source of inspiration for the home's festive decor last year, marked by the powder pink and dusty rose accents with feminine touches. Monika purchased the "Hello Lovely" ornament in honour of Lillya's birth to serve as a beautiful reminder of when they welcomed her into the world.

ORNAMENT, Indigo.

12

From the Fort Langley, B.C., shopping bag to the plaid scarf and blanket to the warm winter boots and even the skull mount, there's always a hint of Canadiana in Monika's winter decor.

STOOL, The Cross Decor & Design; **FLOOR TILES,** Cement Tile Shop; custom **BENCH CUSHION,** Stephanie Jean Design; **TOSS CUSHION,** Pottery Barn; **BLANKET,** Bella & Wren; **WREATH,** HomeSense.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

1

MAGIC *moments*

For Sweden-based Rebecca Sibner, Christmas is all about recreating the magical atmosphere she experienced as a child and passing that spirit on to her daughter, Lily. That means lots of family, food and fun, plus a decorating scheme with its roots in the natural world. From taking nature walks to forage for pine cones, moss and twigs to baking her family's traditional fudge, here's how this budding interior designer casts her holiday spell.

1 FORAGE THE FESTIVE

The start of November sees homeowner Rebecca Sibner scouring the woods for nature walk finds like pine cones and fallen branches to craft into simple wreaths and swags for her home. "My husband, Andreas, claims we start too early – but I think he secretly likes it," says Rebecca with a laugh.

2 HONOUR YOUR HERITAGE

As a youngster, Rebecca spent Christmas holidays with her large family at her grandparents' farm in rural Sweden. She wants to honour that natural country aesthetic and keep the traditions alive for her daughter, Lily.

3 MAKE MEALS MEMORABLE

Rebecca's family arrives en masse on December 23, ready to be entertained with great food and convivial company. The guests love to gather around the dining room table, where Christmas Eve breakfast has become one of the main meals, often lasting until noon. Rebecca anticipates her loved ones' lingering by setting her rustic farmhouse table in a simple way, with natural greenery grounded by hits of black and white, and lit up by the sparkle of glassware and candlelight. It all sets a tone conducive to lively conversation filled with laughter and sentiment.

2

WITH FILES FROM MARIANA SCHROEDER; PHOTOGRAPHY, CECILIA MÖLLER/LIVING4MEDIA

3

4
SWEET CREAM
SUGAR CONES

4 STAY IN SYNC

"Red gnomes and brightly coloured ornaments are not my thing," says Rebecca. "Fresh pine boughs and candles go a long way when it comes to my Christmas decor." Case in point is this restrained vignette that consists of two small wreaths and one tiny candlelit ceramic house.

5 FEATURE THE FAMILY

"When my whole family arrives, it's crowded, but it's cozy – and we have so much fun together," says Rebecca. She prepares by layering her comfy couch with throws and toss cushions for guests to lounge together in the living room and watch favourite holiday movies as the night falls.

6 THINK IN THREES

There's a tree for everyone in Rebecca's house at Christmas: One, unadorned, has pride of place in the kitchen; another, in the living room, is delicately decorated in silver, white and pastel shades; and the one in Lily's room is lavished with handmade snowballs, ballerinas and ornaments the young girl crafted at school.

7 EXTEND THE SEASON

The natural decorations Rebecca uses in her home are chosen in part for their longevity. Handcrafted stars, natural greenery, winter bulbs and festive candle holders stay in place into the new year, long after the presents and party paraphernalia are put away.

8 SCENT THE SCENE

"We fill the house with the fragrances of Christmas," says Rebecca. Beyond the scented candles and the smell of fresh greenery, the aroma of holiday baking is in the air nearly every day, be it from saffron cake, sweet buns, fudge from a treasured family recipe or traditional gingerbread.

9 DECK WITH DETAILS

Rebecca's design preferences are typical of Scandi interiors – pared-down decorating with a touch of whimsy and a nod to the past. She loves to dress the rooms of her century home with quirky seasonal vignettes such as the one here. "Just do what you think is fun," she advises.

10 NURTURE THE NATURAL

Rebecca's reliance on the pure beauty of nature when decorating for the holidays is evident in the unadorned tree that graces her kitchen. "It has to be a beautiful tree – and that's enough." A few gifts wrapped in kraft paper and some candles on the console add a touch of rustic appeal to the scene.

11 PLAY WITH PLACE SETTINGS

As a budding interior designer, Rebecca loves to experiment with artful displays, but when it comes to the tablescape, she keeps it simple. "I prefer the green of nature mixed with white," she says. The look perfectly complements the rest of her farmhouse holiday style.

10

holiday BREADS

RECIPES IRENE FONG

PHOTOGRAPHY MAYA VISNYEI

FOOD STYLING CLAIRE STUBBS

PROP STYLING ANN MARIE FAVOT

Breakfast, lunch and dinner – we're always in the mood for bread, whether it's in the form of a French baguette, a seven-grain roll or even good old sliced white. The holidays, however, require a little something special, so we're bringing you the deluxe versions on these pages. Sweet, savoury or in between, they may just be the best gifts you give your family this year.

Fruitcake
BUTTER

Sumac Lime
BUTTER

Festive Pull-Apart
DINNER ROLLS

CINNAMON & SUGAR BABKA WREATH

PREP & COOK TIME **1½ HOURS** | SERVES **10**

- ¾ cup packed brown sugar
- 1 tbsp cinnamon
- 1 batch Easy Quick-Rise Dough (see page 102)
- ½ cup unsalted butter, softened
- 2 cups icing sugar
- 3 tbsp 2% milk
- Freshly grated orange zest

Preheat the oven to 375°F. Mix the brown sugar and cinnamon together in a small bowl; set aside. On a lightly floured surface, roll out the dough into a 30" x 10" rectangle.

Spread the butter all over the top of the dough; sprinkle with the sugar mixture, patting it down with your hands to adhere. Starting at a long end, roll up the dough; trim away the rough ends (approximately 2" from each end). Using a sharp knife, slice the dough in half lengthwise, stopping about 2" from one end.

Place the dough cut side up on a work surface. Lift the piece closest to you over the piece furthest from you. Repeat to create a twisted rope of dough. Transfer to a large parchment paper-lined baking sheet. Twist the ends of the dough together to create a wreath shape, pinching and brushing with water to adhere if necessary.

Bake until the wreath is golden and sounds hollow when tapped, about 25 minutes. Let stand for 10 minutes before serving.

Meanwhile, whisk the icing sugar and milk together in a bowl. Drizzle over the wreath and sprinkle with the orange zest; serve.

Cinnamon & Sugar
BABKA WREATH

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Bake on.

Garlic & Parmesan
SNOWFLAKE BREAD

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EASY QUICK-RISE DOUGH

PREP & COOK TIME **1½ HOURS** | MAKES **1 BATCH**

¼ cup granulated sugar, divided
½ cup warm water
1 package (or 2½ tsp) active dry yeast
½ cup 2% milk
¼ cup unsalted butter
1 tsp salt
2 eggs, beaten
4½ cups all-purpose flour

In the bowl of a stand mixer, dissolve 1 teaspoon of the sugar in the warm water. Sprinkle the yeast overtop and let stand until frothy, about 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, in a small saucepan, stir together the remaining sugar, milk, butter and salt over medium-low heat until the butter is melted; remove from the heat and let cool until lukewarm. Add the milk mixture to the yeast mixture in the bowl of the stand mixer; add the eggs and stir until combined.

With the stand mixer fitted with the whisk attachment, gradually beat in 1½ cups of the flour; beat until smooth, about 2 minutes. Using a wooden spoon, gradually stir in enough of the remaining flour to make a soft, sticky dough that comes away from the sides of the bowl.

Change the attachment on the stand mixer to the dough hook and knead until smooth, about 6 minutes, adding more flour if the dough begins to stick to the sides of the bowl. Turn the dough onto a lightly floured surface; knead with your hands until the dough forms a smooth ball, about 1 minute.

Place the dough in a greased bowl, turning the ball to grease it all over. Cover and let the dough rise in a warm draft-free place until soft, airy and almost doubled in size, about 1 hour.

FESTIVE PULL-APART DINNER ROLLS

PREP & COOK TIME **1½ HOURS** | MAKES **ONE 20-PIECE CIRCLE**

1 batch Easy Quick-Rise Dough
Flour for dusting

On a lightly floured surface, roll the dough into a long 2½"-thick rope. Place the rope on a large parchment paper-lined rimless baking sheet and bring the ends together to create a circle, pinching to seal and brushing with a bit of water to help the ends adhere if necessary.

Preheat the oven to 375°F. Using sharp scissors, make cuts 1" apart around the edge of the dough, without cutting all the way through. Gently separate the slices, pulling them apart, one toward the outer side of the circle and the next toward the centre. Cover the dough with a clean tea towel and let rise for 15 minutes. Sprinkle the top lightly with flour.

Bake until the rolls are golden brown and sound hollow when tapped, about 25 minutes. Let stand for at least 10 minutes before serving.

FRUITCAKE BUTTER

PREP & COOK TIME **15 MINUTES** | MAKES **1 CUP**

1 cup unsalted butter, softened
1 tbsp liquid honey
½ tsp grated orange zest
Pinch ground cloves

In a small bowl, stir together all the ingredients until well combined. Serve with Festive Pull-Apart Dinner Rolls.

SUMAC LIME BUTTER

PREP & COOK TIME **15 MINUTES** | MAKES **1 CUP**

1 cup unsalted butter, softened
1 tsp each: freshly grated lime zest and ground sumac

In a small bowl, stir together all the ingredients until well combined. Serve with Festive Pull-Apart Dinner Rolls.

GARLIC & PARMESAN SNOWFLAKE BREAD

PREP & COOK TIME **1 HOUR** | MAKES **ONE 20-PIECE LOAF**

1 batch Easy Quick-Rise Dough
½ cup unsalted butter, softened, divided
1 clove garlic, pressed or grated
1¼ tsp chopped fresh thyme, divided
½ tsp freshly ground black pepper
½ cup grated Parmesan, divided
1 egg, lightly beaten

Divide the dough in half; shape one half into a ball, folding the ends underneath and pinching at the bottom. Roll the ball on a work surface in a circular motion until seamless. Repeat with the remaining dough. Cover the dough with a clean tea towel and let rise for 15 minutes.

In a small bowl, stir together ⅓ cup of the butter, the garlic, 1 teaspoon of the thyme and the pepper; set aside.

On a lightly floured surface, roll out each dough ball into a 12" circle. Place one circle on a rimless parchment paper-lined baking sheet. Spread the butter mixture on top, leaving a ½" border. Sprinkle with all but 2 tablespoons of the Parmesan; press gently to adhere. Brush the edge of the circle with a bit of the egg; top with the remaining dough circle, pinching the ends to seal.

Preheat the oven to 375°F. Make 20 cuts from the outside toward the centre of the circle, leaving 1" in the centre intact. Take one piece of dough and twist it four or five times; twist the next piece of dough in the opposite direction. Brush the ends of both pieces of dough with the egg and pinch them together to seal. Repeat with the remaining pieces. Sprinkle with the remaining thyme and Parmesan.

Bake until the bread is golden and sounds hollow when tapped, about 25 minutes. Brush with remaining butter; let stand for 5 minutes before serving.

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Whole Home plastic Candy **ORNAMENTS,** $8 per set of 3 each, Sears, sears.ca.

Plastic Christmas Truck **ORNAMENT,** $4, Walmart, walmart.ca.

8 Whimsical ORNAMENTS

No matter its size, a Christmas tree is only as striking as the baubles it bears. These playful ornaments will make your evergreen shine above the rest – no tinsel required.

Glass Ice Cream Stick **ORNAMENT,** $6, Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

The pickle ornament is kind of a big dill. It hearkens back to a quirky tradition of uncertain origin, wherein the child who finds the one hidden on the tree gets an extra gift.

Polymer clay A Christmas Pickle **ORNAMENT,** $20 US, The Air Castle, theaircastle.etsy.com.

Embroidered cotton Tree **ORNAMENT** in Red, $9, Crate and Barrel, crate-andbarrel.com.

Sequined Bird **ORNAMENT** in Rose Gold, $12 US, West Elm, westelm.com.

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